

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Summary for Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Location: DNREC Lewes Field Office, 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958

Members present: Stan Mills, Chairman (League of Local Governments)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council) – call-in
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Marianne Cinaglia (Public)

Members absent: Wendy Turner (Public)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
Sewall McCabe (Soda Beverage Industry)
Steve Masterson (Waste Masters Solutions)
Rustyn Stoops (Del. Chamber of Commerce)
Vikram Krishnamurthy (Public)

Non-members present: Don Long (DNREC)
Jackie Howard (DNREC)
Julia Haas (DNREC)
Nancy Marker (DNREC)
Roy Messmer, Public
Carol Taylor, Public
Susan Stringfellow, Public
Steve Chargris, DE Chapter, NWRA

Call to Order, Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair at approximately 1:00pm

- Call to order, Introductions, Roll Call

Public Comments

- Correspondence: n/a
- Members of Public: Susan Stringfellow and Carol Taylor of Milton voiced concerns that many people in Milton do not know how to recycle correctly. Biggest concern for them are the plastic bags blowing across farm fields; Susan also mentioned them in waterways where she kayaks. Roy Messmer, Lewes expressed concerns about the plastic bags as well and in keeping the environmental clean. He stressed more messaging on keeping plastic bags out of Single Stream Recycling. He mentioned “America Recycles Day” of which he had never heard of before, that his home state of New Jersey recycles Styrofoam which is remade into picture frames and he applauded DNREC for the signage [pull up banners from the media campaign].

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- RPAC member, Coralie Pryde, followed up by asking the above public attendees if they has seen or heard of any of the media efforts. Susan Stringfellow mentioned she had seen a billboard ad and suggested more needs to be done to address public events recycling.

Approval

- RPAC Meeting Minutes of 10/25/2017
 - No quorum present; minutes were not approved

Council Membership

- Council seat vacancy – status
 - One seat for a community based, public interest representative still awaiting appointment by the Governor

Committee Reports

- Outreach/Education Updates
 - DNREC's Recycling "Outreach and Education Campaign managed by ab+c Jackie Howard, DNREC, informed RPAC that all media platforms will are being update with DNREC logos; she also mentioned that she attended a viewing of the PSA at CarMike Dover – the ad is in a good spot between two other state PSAs and is within the 5-7 minute window prior to the start of the feature film
- A dialogue ensued between Roy Presser, a public attendee and Mike Parkowski, RPAC member over the issue of bagging recyclables. Mike Parkowski, representing DSWA, responded by saying that one of the haulers, Blue Hen, tells all customers to bag recyclables due to the system that this hauler uses to collect and tip the carts. Mike also said that it is not against the law to put recyclables in bags but is not an acceptable practice under Single Stream in Delaware and he regrets that this loophole was not addressed legislatively in the Universal Recycling Law. Mike further stated that DSWA, Blue Hen and the MRF owner, Republic Services, need to enter into conversation on how to address the issue of bags and Blue Hen repeatedly telling customer to bag single stream recyclables.

Old Business

- Status of Universal Recycling Grant and Low-Interest Loan Programs
 - Cycle 7 has closed but about 2/3 of recipients asked for an extension. Granted so Cycle 7 will not close until first quarter next year.
 - Cycle 8 ongoing with media invoices coming in regularly.
- Status of 15th Annual Report
 - Follow up to report – Messaging to Governor. Stan indicated he conferred with DNREC representative about deferring on a letter to the Governor citing the 16th Annual Report would be published and distributed soon and so the letter was not timely not necessary. Council concurred.

New Business

- Report on timeline and discussion of the RPAC 16th Annual Report to Governor and the General Assembly
 - By Jan RPAC a first draft will be ready for review by RPAC members
 - Any comments on the first draft will be due back to DNREC by mid-February
 - Final approved by early March
 - Mid-March, the Report will be distributed electronically to the Governor, Legislature and others by request

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- Review of Organics Task Force final report
 - Marj Crofts, DNREC and Mike Parkowski, DSWA, gave an synopsis of what was in the report and an overview of aerobic vs anaerobic composting with Mike outlining the specific, homogenous waste inputs that are critical to the proper functioning of anaerobic digestion; both he and Marj suggested that RPAC focus their attention on commercial composting and not on individual composting of organic waste
 - Mike Parkowski introduced DSM speakers who presented RPAC with a synthesis of organics data from their report, “Analysis of Organics Diversion Alternatives, Report to the Delaware Solid Waste Authority, September 2017” including looking at the potential for organic waste recycling in Delaware
 - Ted Siegler and Natalie Starr, DSM, gave an overview on the above report to include:
 - food waste disposal rates in DE and three types of disposal options:
 - Food waste to animal feed
 - Anaerobic digestion
 - Composting
 - steps DE could take in reducing food waste generation – note that Delaware has a 75% food waste recycling rate driven by economics
 - economic feasibility of putting organics digestion in Delaware – is there a market for investing in an organics digester in Delaware; data indicates there is no effective and viable economic solution to building an organics digester in Delaware
 - Discussion ensued on food waste and loss recovery hierarchy with reduction at the top and land filling at the bottom of the chart, i.e., least desirable method; Mike Parkowski added that in Delaware, landfills act as de facto anaerobic digesters with off gases (mainly methane) collected and stored for future use.
 - Mike added that DSWA is working with locations and generators to develop small scale, onsite options; one of the sites currently being developed is at the University of Delaware as a test for collecting organics.
 - One of the huge issues with organics recycling is the contamination
- Report on current organics activities under DNREC permit – Don Long; not covered due to time
- Discussion of path forward relative to organics diversion
 - Deferred to January meeting
 - RPAC will decide at January meeting what to recommend to DSWA and DNREC on the above [DSM] findings
- Discussion ensued on poultry waste and diverting this organic material for beneficial reuse and on food waste partnering across state lines

Legislative Updates

- Deferred to January

Additional Public Comment

- None

Future agenda topics

- To be continued

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2018 meeting calendar and meeting locations review

- Deferred to January

Next Meeting

- January 24, 2018 1:00pm-3:00pm (location to be determined)

Adjourn

- 3:10pm